

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/981,713

[strips] at least two longitudinally introduced tapes (2, 3) [overlap] overlaps itself [each other]
by at least 50%.

2. (Currently Amended) A conductor as claimed in Claim 1, [characterized in that]
wherein at least one [strip] tape or thread (4, 5) of a high-tensile, flame resistant material is
helically applied to the first layer.

3. (Currently Amended) A conductor as claimed in Claim 1, [characterized in that]
wherein the [strips] longitudinally introduced tapes are made of a glass filament [strip] tape with
mica particles, [which are] said mica particles being bonded to the glass filament [strip] tape with
a silicon resin.

4. (Currently Amended) A conductor as claimed in Claim 1, [characterized in that]
wherein said second layer comprises two [strips] tapes or threads (4, 5) with a high tensile, flame
resistant material that are wound onto the first layer (2, 3) with an opposite direction of lay.

5. (Currently Amended) A conductor as claimed in Claim 2, [characterized in that]
wherein the thread (4, 5) of high-tensile flame resistant material is a glass filament or carbon
fiber thread.

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6. (Currently Amended) A conductor as claimed in Claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein, with the use of two [strips] longitudinally introduced tapes, the overlap area (2a) of [the] a first [strip (2)] tape (2) of the two longitudinally introduced tapes is offset by 180° in relation to the overlap area (3a) of [the] a second [strip (3)] tape (3) of the two longitudinally introduced tapes.

7. (Currently Amended) A conductor as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that the [strips] at least two longitudinally introduced tapes (2, 3) of the first layer are glass/mica strips, and the mica layer faces the conductor (1).

8. (Currently Amended) An electrical cable with preserved functionality in case of fire, characterized in that said cable comprises at least two stranded conductors as claimed in Claim 1.

9. (Withdrawn) A process for producing an insulated electrical conductor with preserved functionality in case of fire, in which an electrical conductor is provided with a first glass and/or mica containing layer, and a second plastic layer is subsequently applied to said first layer, characterized by the following steps:

a) applying a first glass and/or mica containing longitudinally introduced strip to the conductor with an overlap of at least 50%,

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b) applying a second glass and/or mica containing longitudinally introduced strip to the first strip, again with an overlap of more than 50%, wherein the overlap of the second strip is offset by 180° in relation to the overlap of the first strip,

c) in tandem extrusion of a plastic layer onto the conductor provided with the first layer.

10. (Withdrawn) A process as claimed in Claim 9, characterized by the step of winding at least one strip or thread onto the second strip prior to step c).

11. (Withdrawn) A process as claimed in Claim 9, characterized in that the longitudinal formation of the strips is effected within a tubular guide.

12. (Withdrawn) A process as claimed in Claim 10, characterized in that two glass filament or carbon fiber threads are helically wound onto the second strip with an opposite direction of lay.

13. (Withdrawn) A process as claimed in Claim 9, characterized in that several conductors are simultaneously produced and are subsequently provided with a common plastic sheath.

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14. (Withdrawn) A process as claimed in Claim 12, characterized in that the conductors are stranded together and a plastic outer sheath is subsequently extruded onto the stranded composite.

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[Please add the following new claim 15:]

15. (New) A conductor as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least two longitudinally introduced tapes comprises only two tapes, and said two tapes overlap themselves so as to attain three layers around said conductor.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

**Please delete the present Abstract of the Disclosure and
replace it with the following new Abstract of the Disclosure:**

An insulated electrical conductor with preserved functionality in case of fire [comprises] includes a metallic conductor, a first glass and/or mica containing layer, which is applied to the conductor, and a second plastic layer sheathing the first layer. The first layer consists of at least two longitudinally introduced strips [(2, 3)] of glass and/or mica applied to the conductor, the width of which is selected such that each of the strips [(2, 3)] [overlap] overlaps itself by at least 50%.